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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,992	02/09/2005	Chang Log Jeong	2729-171	2849

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/523,992	<b>Applicant(s)</b> JEONG, CHANG LOG	
	<b>Examiner</b> David E. Bochna	<b>Art Unit</b> 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>✓ 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>✓ 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br/>           Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.</p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br/>           Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.</p> |
|---|---|

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains grammatical errors.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ouderkirk et al.

In regard to claim 1, Ouderkirk discloses a pipe fitter clamp R fixedly installed between a female bracket S and a male bracket 26 which are coupled each other to allow forward insertion of a pipe 10 and prevent backward escape of the pipe and pressing and fixing the inserted pipe, the pipe fitter clamp comprising:

a ring shape body R having an inner diametric portion 32 contacting the pipe 10 and at least one allowance slit 37 formed in an outer diametric direction from the inner diametric portion to enable diametric extension of the inner diametric portion; and

at least one allowance slit extension portion (35 with slit 37) protruding from the body to have an extended allowance slit in which the length of the allowance slit is extended over an outer diameter of the body, extended and connected to have a shape of encompassing an outside

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of the extended allowance slit, and bent by a predetermined angle with respect to the body so as to be elastically deformed.

In regard to claim 3, further comprising an auxiliary extension portion (35 without slit 37) having the same outer side as that of the allowance slit extension portion, bent by the same angle as that of the allowance slit extension portion so as to be elastically deformable, and having no allowance slit.

In regard to claim 5, wherein the body and the allowance slit extension portion are formed by punching an inner diametric portion of the body in a stainless steel spring plate, forming an allowance slit by radially cutting the inner diametric portion at an identical angle, lifting off an outer portion of the body and the allowance slit extension portion except for an connection portion, bending the allowance slit extension portion with respect to the body fixed to the steel plate by the connection portion, and cutting the connection portion to lift off the body and the allowance slit extension portion (this whole claim contains product by process limitations, which carry little patentable weight in an apparatus claim. Only positively recited structural limitations have weight in an apparatus claim).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouderkirk et al.

In regard to claim 2, Ouderkirk et al. discloses the pipe fitter clamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein a circumferential surface of the body has an inclined surface 33 inclined at a predetermined angle to resist backward escape of the inserted pipe, the allowance slit 37 is radially formed at an identical angle and identical distance with respect to the body, the allowance slit extension portion has an extended allowance slit connected to the allowance slit of the body, bent by a predetermined angle with respect to the body, and has a round hole formed an end portion of the extended allowance slit 37 to prevent concentration of stress and improve deformability. Ouderkirk is silent as the exact metal that the fitting R is made from, however it would have been obvious to make the body and the allowance slit extension portion out of a stainless steel spring plate which is thermally treated so as to be elastically deformed with each other because the selection of a known material based upon its suitability for the intended use is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

6. Claims 4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### *Conclusion*

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Helm, Pate, Leadbetter et al., Hynes, Miller, Scholtes and Burns all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



David E. Bochna  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3679